## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ATHENS 02914 071630Z ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VOE-00 /003 W

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P 071435Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5355

**UNCLAS ATHENS 2914** 

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: CGEN, GR

SUBJECT: VISIT TO MT ATHOS

H - PASS: HONORABLE PAUL N. MCCLOSKEY, JR. CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES 205 CANNON BUILDING WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

- 1. I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR LETTER OF MARCH 20, 1978 REQUESTING EMBASSY ASSISTANCE TO YOUR CONSTITUENT MR. BERNARD RUBIN IN VISITING THE HOLY MOUNTAIN OF ATHENS.
- 2. WHILE WE WILL BE MOST HAPPY TO COMPLY WITH YOUR REQUEST, THE INFORMATION PROVIDED YOU BY THE GREEK FOREIGN MINISTRY IS UNFORTUNATELY INCOMPLETE AND I WOULD THUS BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THE FOLLOWING.
- 3. TO PROCESS THE REQUEST OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN TO VISIT MT. ATHOS, A NOTE VERBALE ADDRESSED TO THE MINISTRY IS PREPARED BY THE EMBASSY. THE NOTE INCLUDES THE NAME, PASSPORT DATA AND PROFESSION OF THE APPLICANT AND MUST BE TAKEN IN PERSON, ALONG WITH THE PASSPORT ITSELF

TO THE MINISTRY'S DIRECTORATE OF CHURCHES. THIS OFFICE IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY FROM 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M. THE PERMIT TO VISIT MT. ATHOS IS USUALLY ISSUED THE SAME DAY THE APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED. IT IS VALID FOR UP TO A FOUR DAY VISIT UNCLASSIFIED

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AND MUST BE USED WITHIN WHAT IS TERMED A "REASONABLE" LENGTH OF TIME, I.E. ABOUT 30 DAYS.

4. IF IT IS MORE CONVENIENT, THE NOTE VERBALE CAN BE ISSUED AT THE AMERICAN CONSULATE IN THESSALONIKI, WHERE IT MUST BE TAKEN TO THE MINISTRY FOR NORTHERN GREECE AND TO THE ALIENS' POLICE.

5. FINALLY, ONLY TEN PERMITS ARE ISSUED PER DAY TO APPLICANTS OF ALL NATIONALITIES. PREFERENCE IS GIVEN TO THOSE HAVING A SPECIAL INTEREST IN VISITING MT. ATHOS, SUCH AS STUDENTS OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY, TEACHERS, ARCHITECTS AND PEOPLE OF PROMINENCE. I TRUST THIS INFORMATION WILL BE OF USE TO MR. RUBIN AND AM HAPPY TO HAVE BEEN OF ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER.

MCCLOSKEY

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: n/a Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 07 apr 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment: Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ATHENS02914
Document Source: CORE

**Document Unique ID: 00** Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

**Expiration:** Film Number: D780150-1175

Format: TEL

From: ATHENS

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780483/aaaacsec.tel

Line Count: 69 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: e8add4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION H

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 29 mar 2005 **Review Event:** Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** 

Review Release Date: N/A Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3047241 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: VISIT TO MT ATHOS H - PASS: HONORABLE PAUL N. MCCLOSKEY, JR. CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

TAGS: CGEN, GR To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/e8add4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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